(b) if so, what assurance was sought and given by Pak Government about prevension of terrorism an cross border violence and what counter measures have been taken by Pakistan in response to India's reduction and withdrawal of forces from the Indo-Pak frontiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes Sir. During his visit to Islamabad. External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, on Februrary 16, 2005, in his statement after his meeting with Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, said that the process can be sustained only in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence, in the framework of implementation of commitment made on January 6, 2004.

(b) In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004. Pakistan had, in the Joint Statement of January 6, 2004 issued in Islamabad, *inter alia*, stated, that it would not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Road transport policy

*500. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Road Transport Policy is on the anvil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government is in the process of consulting various States and other stakeholders for evolving a Road Transport Policy, which would envisage to cover the Tenth Five Year Plan objectives of the Road Transport Sector, the environmental issues, database for road transport, development of backward areas, the infrastructure issue including National Highways Development Programmes and the problems associated therewith. The proposed policy would also envisage private sector participation in infrastructure building/maintenance, rationalization of motor vehicle taxation, induction of new technology, removal of barriers on National Highways, road safety aspects etc.